

37. The method of Claim 36, wherein said structure-specific nuclease comprises a thermostable structure-specific nuclease.

38. The method of Claim 36, wherein said cleavage agent comprises a 5' nuclease.

39. The method of Claim 38, wherein said 5'-nuclease comprises a thermostable 5'-nuclease.

40. The method of Claim 38, wherein a portion of the amino acid sequence of said nuclease is homologous to a portion of the amino acid sequence of a thermostable DNA polymerase derived from a thermophilic organism.

41. The method of Claim 40, wherein said thermophilic organism is selected from the group consisting of *Thermus aquaticus*, *Thermus flavus*, and *Thermus thermophilus*.

42. The method of Claim 26, wherein said synthetic target nucleic acid comprises DNA.

43. A kit for detecting the presence of a synthetic target nucleic acid molecule, said synthetic target nucleic acid comprising a first region and a second region, said second region downstream of and contiguous to said first region, the kit comprising:

- a) a first oligonucleotide, wherein at least a portion of said first oligonucleotide is completely complementary to said first portion of said first target nucleic acid; and
- b) a second oligonucleotide comprising a 3' portion and a 5' portion, wherein said 5' portion is completely complementary to said second portion of said target nucleic acid.

44. The kit of Claim 43, further comprising a cleavage agent.

45. The kit of Claim 43, wherein said kit further comprises a solid support.

46. The kit of Claim 45, wherein said first oligonucleotide is attached to said solid support.
47. The kit of Claim 43, wherein said second oligonucleotide is attached to said solid support.
48. The kit of Claim 44, wherein said cleavage agent comprises a structure-specific nuclease.
49. The kit of Claim 48, wherein said structure-specific nuclease comprises a thermostable structure-specific nuclease.
50. The kit of Claim 44, wherein said cleavage agent comprises a 5' nuclease.
51. The kit of Claim 50, wherein said 5' nuclease comprises a thermostable 5' nuclease.
52. The kit of Claim 50, wherein a portion of the amino acid sequence of said nuclease is homologous to a portion of the amino acid sequence of a thermostable DNA polymerase derived from a thermophilic organism.
53. The kit of Claim 52, wherein said thermophilic organism is selected from the group consisting of *Thermus aquaticus*, *Thermus flavus*, and *Thermus thermophilus*.
54. The kit of Claim 49, wherein said structure-specific nuclease comprises a FEN-1 endonuclease.
55. The kit of Claim 43, further comprising a buffer solution.
56. The kit of Claim 55, wherein said buffer solution comprises a source of divalent cations.

57. The kit of Claim 56, wherein said divalent cation is selected from the group consisting of Mn²⁺ and Mg²⁺ ions.

58. The kit of Claim 43, further comprising said target nucleic acid.

59. The kit of Claim 43, further comprising amplification primers.

60. A kit for detecting the presence of a synthetic target nucleic acid molecule comprising a FEN-1 endonuclease and amplification primers.

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the cancelled claims (or similar claims) in the future.

Dated: October 18, 2001


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